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## RURAL DISTRICT OF THEDWASTRE.

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### REPORT OF MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH FOR 1910.

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To the Chairman and Members of the  
**Thedwastre Rural District Council.**

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JANUARY, 1911.

GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour of presenting to you the Annual Report on the health of the District, for the year ending 31st December, 1910.

#### *Vital Statistics.*

I have estimated the population of this District to the middle of 1910 as 8830, and have based the following statistics on that figure.

Birth Rate,  
22.1 per 1000.

The number of Births registered during the year was 195, (boys 100, girls 95), which gives a Birth Rate of 22.1 per 1000, compared with 22.3 per 1000 last year. The average Birth Rate for the previous 10 years is 25.2, (see Table I). There were 20 illegitimate births.

The Birth Rate for East Stow district was 23.5 per 1000.

Death Rate,  
13.5 per 1000.

There were 107 Deaths registered in the District during the year (males 56, females 51).

Eight paupers belonging to this District died in the Workhouse, and 2 lunatics belonging to the District died in the Asylum, and 2 patients belonging to the District died in the Ipswich Hospital. These added to the above gives a total of 119, giving a Death Rate of 13.5, compared with 10.9 last year; and an average of 14.2 for the previous 10 years (see Tables I and II).

Death Rate for East Stow was 10.0 per 1000.

Infant Mor-  
tality, 41 per  
1000 Births.

Of the total number of Deaths, 8 were of infants under 1 year of age, giving an Infant Mortality of 41 per 1000 Births, compared with 80 last year, and an average of 78 for the previous 10 years (see Tables I and V).

The Infant Mortality for East Stow District was 58 per 1000 Births.

Zymotic  
Death Rate,  
0.1.

There was 1 Death from Diphtheria during the year, giving Zymotic Death Rate of 0.1 per 1000, as against 0.7 for last year.

This Rate for East Stow District was 0.2.

Other Deaths.

Amongst the other Deaths (see Table IV.) occurring during the year were; 7 from Phthisis, compared with 8 last year; 11 from Cancer, compared with 1 last year; 8 from Diseases of Respiratory organs, compared with 6 last year; 16 from Heart Disease, compared with 16 last year; and as last year, 2 were caused by accidents, and 2 were suicidal.

## Infectious Diseases.

There were 39 notifications of Infectious Diseases received during the year, compared with 17 last year, and 18 the year before, (see Table III).

The cases were as follows:—

Diphtheria 11 ; compared with 4 last year.

Erysipelas 6 ; compared with 5 last year.

Scarlet Fever 21 ; compared with 6 last year.

One case of Enteric, compared with 1 last year.

The Diphtheria occurred principally in Woolpit, where there were 9 cases.

There was 1 case at Wattisfield and 1 at Elmswell.

The cases of Erysipelas were distributed as follows:—

Thurston 1 ; Langham 1 ; Walsham 1 ; Elmswell 1 ; Hinderclay 1 and Ashfield 1.

Scarlet Fever—15 cases at Felsham ; 3 at Drinkstone ; 1 at Walsham ; 1 at Wattisfield and 1 at Langham. The case of Enteric Fever was at Felsham.

### Phthisis (P. H. Tuberculosis Act 1908).

Four notifications of Phthisis amongst Paupers were received—

Thurston	..	1.
Norton	..	2.
Walsham	..	1.

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This district consists of 20 villages, scattered over a large area, and is purely agricultural.

**Water Supply.** The sub-soil is mostly heavy clay, ponds are common and are largely used for domestic purposes. Drinking water is obtained chiefly from shallow wells. There are a few deep wells in the chalk.

The following villages have a public supply under the control of the Council:—

Ashfield, Beyton, Drinkstone, Elmswell, Hinderclay, Rattlesden, Rickinghall and Woolpit.

**House Accommodation.** The house accommodation for the working classes, is on the whole unsatisfactory, the cottages being in the majority of cases damp and ill ventilated, with only two bedrooms, so that frequent cases of overcrowding occur. These are difficult to deal with satisfactorily.

**Sanitary arrangements.** Privy vaults are the usual form of sanitary accommodation, and are a fruitful source of evils, chief amongst them being the pollution of the water supply.

**Notices, &c.** Notices were served on occupiers or owners in respect to nuisances connected with 12 houses, and all but 2 have been complied with.

Details as to these notices will be found under the headings of the separate villages.

**Cowsheds and Dairies.** The Dairies and Cowsheds in the District were inspected during the year, and were reported to be in a fairly satisfactory sanitary condition, and with ample air-space.

**Factory Act, 1901.** There are few factories and workshops in the District coming under the Factories and Workshops Act ; these are in a satisfactory condition.

**Rat Plague.** Owing to the occurrence of 4 cases of plague at Freston in the County, and the discovery of infected rats in that District, and also in the Districts of Woodbridge and Felixstowe, active measures have been taken, and are being taken, to destroy rats in this District. These measures have been discussed with officials from the Local Government Board, and their suggestions and advice have been acted upon. In all instances where rats and other rodents have died under suspicious circumstances, they have been forwarded to the L. G. B. for bacteriological examination. Up to the present time none have been found infected with plague. In accordance with the directions of the L. G. B. a further exhaustive test is being made. A large number of rats (500) from different parts of the district being required for examination. The result of this test is not yet known.

The following details have reference to the various Villages in the District, the numbers in brackets refer to the population at the last census, and the area in acres.

ASHFIELD MAGNA (P.—375 ; A.—1548).

There were 10 Births, compared with 9 last year.

Two Deaths, compared with 3 last year.

One case of Erysipelas was noted in this village.

BADWELL ASH (P.—356 ; A.—1858).

There were 11 Births, compared with 14 last year ; 2 were illegitimate, compared with 3 last year.

There were 5 Deaths and 5 last year.

One of these was an infant under 1 year, and 2 from Cancer.

No Infectious Diseases notified, for the sixth year in succession.

BEYTON (P.—351 ; A.—644).

Ten Births, compared with 9 last year ; 1 was illegitimate.

As last year, there were 3 Deaths.

DRINKSTONE (P.—382 ; A.—2196).

There were 11 Births, compared with 4 last year ; 2 were illegitimate.

There were 7 Deaths, compared with 2 last year.

One Death of a child under 1 year of age, and 1 accidental death.

Three cases of Scarlet Fever were notified.

ELMSWELL (P.—858 ; A.—2089).

There were 14 Births as compared with 20 last year ; 3 births were illegitimate.

There were 14 Deaths, compared with 11 last year.

One Death of a child under 1 year of age, 1 Death aged 88.

One case of Diphtheria notified. This case terminated fatally. One case of Erysipelas. One Death was suicidal.

The P. Vaults in connection with 6 cottages, were reported defective. The owner was served with notice to repair, and the same were put in order. In 8 other instances the P. vaults were in a filthy condition. Notices were served, and these nuisances were abated.

FELSHAM (P.—363 ; A.—1654).

There were 7 Births, compared with 9 last year.

There were 6 Deaths, compared with 2 last year.

There were 15 cases of Scarlet Fever notified. None terminated fatally.

Notices were served on owners of 4 houses, with defective drainage.

GEDDING (P.—97 ; A.—494).

One Birth, as compared with 6 last year.

There were no Deaths, for the third successive year.

No Infectious Diseases notified.

HESSETT (P.—381 ; A.—1604).

There were 11 Births, compared with 10 last year ; 3 were illegitimate.

There were no Deaths. No Infectious Diseases.



HINDERCLAY (P.—261; A.—1488).

There were 8 Births, as compared with 5 last year; 1 was illegitimate.

There were 8 Deaths, compared with 2 last year. One under 1 year of age. Three were from Cancer.

One case of Erysipelas notified.

Two cottages were condemned as unfit for human habitation.

HUNSTON (P.—127; A.—960).

There were 4 Births, compared with 1 last year; 1 was illegitimate.

There were 2 deaths. One under 1 year of age. One aged 88. No Infectious Diseases.

LANGHAM (P.—154; A.—970).

There were 3 Births, the same number as last year.

There was 1 Death. No Infectious Diseases.

NORTON (P.—742; A.—2160).

There were 22 Births as compared with 11 last year; 3 were illegitimate.

There were 10 Deaths, compared with 7 last year. One was accidental.

No Infectious Diseases were notified.

Overcrowding was reported in 4 houses. Notices to remove whole or part of family were served.

RATTLESDEN (P.—894; A.—3299).

There were 23 Births, as compared with 23 last year. Two were illegitimate.

There were 13 Deaths, compared with 9 last year.

One was under 1 year of age. One was from Cancer. No Infectious Diseases.

In 1 instance, P. Vault was reported in a filthy condition. Notice was served and nuisance abated.

In another instance, drainage was reported defective and notice was served.

RICKINGHALL INFERIOR (P.—381; A.—1981).

There were 4 Births, as compared with 6 last year.

There were 4 Deaths, as compared with 2 last year. No Infectious Diseases.

In 4 instances, P. Vaults reported defective. Nuisance abated.

STOWLANGTOFT (P.—158; A.—1478).

There was 1 Birth, as compared with 2 last year.

There were no Deaths. No Infectious Diseases.

THURSTON (P.—600; A.—2223).

There were 7 Births, compared with 11 last year.

There were 6 Deaths, compared with 6 last year.

One was from Cancer, and 1 Suicidal.

One case Erysipelas notified.

TOSTOCK (P.—286; A.—952).

There were 7 Births, compared with 10 last year.

There were 2 Deaths, compared with 2 last year.

One under 1 year of age. No Infectious Diseases.

In 4 instances, P. Vaults were defective. Notice served and new ones were erected.

In 1 instance drainage defective. Notice served and nuisance abated.

WALSHAM (P.—1038 ; A.—2817).

There were 17 Births as compared with 23 last year.

There were 8 Deaths as compared with 9 last year.

Two were 87 and 89 respectively.

One case of Erysipelas notified.

WATTISFIELD (P.—408 ; A.—1530).

There were 10 Births as compared with 7 last year.

There were 6 Deaths as compared with 7 last year. One Death from Cancer.

One case of Diphtheria notified and 1 of Scarlet Fever.

In 3 houses, wells polluted by rats. Notice was served and wells repaired.

WOOLPIT (P.—863 ; A.—1881).

There were 14 Births as compared with 12 last year. One was illegitimate.

There were 10 Deaths as compared with 8 last year.

One under 1 year of age. One aged 92. There was 1 death from Cancer.

There were 9 cases of Diphtheria notified.

In several instances, in connection with these cases defective drainage was discovered and remedied. None of the cases proved fatal.

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### **General Remarks.**

The Birth Rate shews a slight decrease. The Illegitimate Birth Rate is rather higher.

The Death Rate is rather higher, although below the average for the last ten years.

The Zymotic Death Rate is lower, being 0.1 for the whole district.

The Infant Mortality is lower, being only half that of last year.

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I have the honour to remain, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

S. HILLIER, M.D.,

*Deputy Medical Officer of Health.*

Table I shows the estimated population, and Birth and Death Rates for the last 10 years.

Table II refers to the Factories Act.

Table III shows the cases of Infectious Diseases notified, and particulars as to age.

Table IV shows the causes of, and ages at Death during the year.

Table V gives the details of Infant Mortality.

TABLE I.

## Vital Statistics of Whole District during 1910 and previous Years.

Year.	Population estimated to middle of each year.	Births.		Total Deaths registered in the District.				Total deaths in Public Institutions in the District.	Deaths of Non-residents registered in Public Institutions in the District.	Deaths of Residents registered in Public Institutions beyond the District.	Nett Deaths at all Ages belonging to the District.	
		Number	Rate.*	Under 1yr. of age		At all Ages.					Number	Rate.*
				Number	Rate per 1,000 Births registrd.	Number	Rate.*					
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
1900	9115	241	26.4	10	41	124	13.5			10	134	14.6
1901	9055	255	28.1	18	70	122	13.4			13	135	14.9
1902	9015	217	24.0	32	147	152	16.8			3	155	17.1
1903	8975	254	28.5	13	51	98	10.9			2	100	11.1
1904	8935	202	22.6	17	85	144	16.2			7	151	16.8
1905	8895	238	26.7	23	96	138	15.5			6	144	16.0
1906	8885	241	27.1	15	62	114	12.6			10	124	14.0
1907	8865	195	21.9	14	75	104	11.7			5	108	12.2
1908	8855	218	24.6	18	82	122	13.7			10	132	15.0
1909	8840	198	22.3	16	80	84	9.5			13	97	10.9
Averages for years 1900-1909			25.2		78		13.3			8		14.2
1910	8830	195	22.1	8	41	107	12.1			10	119	13.5

\* Rates in Columns 4 and 8 should be calculated per 1,000 of estimated gross population.

Area of District in acres (exclusive of area covered by water)	..	34126.
Total Population at all ages at Census of 1901	..	9075.
Number of inhabited houses	..	2113.
Average number of persons per house	..	4.7.

TABLE II.

## Vital Statistics of separate Localities in 1910 and previous years.

NAMES OF LOCALITIES.		RATTLEDEN SUB-DISTRICT.				WALSHAM SUB-DISTRICT.			
YEAR.		Population estimated to middle of each year. a.	Births registered. b.	Deaths at all Ages. c.	Deaths under 1 yr. d.	Population estimated to middle of each year. a.	Births registered. b.	Deaths at all Ages. c.	Deaths under 1 yr. d.
1905	..	4129	115	68	10	4756	123	76	13
1906	..	4129	129	59	6	4756	112	65	9
1907	..	4129	90	52	7	4756	105	56	7
1908	..	4129	100	51	8	4756	118	71	10
1909	..	4129	97	33	6	4756	101	51	10
1910	..	4129	91	47	4	4756	104	60	4

TABLE III.  
Cases of Infectious Disease notified during the Year 1910.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES.	CASES NOTIFIED IN WHOLE DISTRICT.						
	At all ages.	At Ages—Years.					
		Under 1	1 to 5	5 to 15	15 to 25	25 to 65	65 and upwards.
Diphtheria .. ..	11		1	9	1		
Erysipelas .. ..	6					4	2
Scarlet Fever .. ..	21		3	17		1	
Enteric Fever .. ..	1					1	
Puerperal Fever ..							
Totals .. ..	39		4	26	1	6	2

TABLE IV.  
Causes of, and Ages at, Death during the Year 1910.

CAUSES OF DEATH.	Deaths at the subjoined ages of 'Residents' whether occurring in or beyond the District						
	All Ages.	Under 1 year	1 and under 5.	5 and under 15.	15 and under 25.	25 and under 65.	65 and up-wards.
Whooping Cough .. ..							
Diphtheria .. ..	1		1				
Epidemic Influenza .. ..	3			1		1	1
Diarrhoea .. ..							
Phthisis .. ..	7				2	5	
Other Tuberculous Diseases ..	2		1			1	
Cancer .. ..	11					7	4
Bronchitis .. ..	2						2
Pneumonia .. ..	5		2				3
Other Diseases of Respiratory Organs	1						1
Alcoholism, Cirrhosis of Liver ..	1					1	
Heart Diseases .. ..	16					5	11
Accidents .. ..	2					2	
Suicides .. ..	2					1	1
All other causes .. ..	64	9	1	3	1	17	35
All Causes .. ..	119	9	5	4	3	40	58



TABLE V.  
 INFANTILE MORTALITY DURING THE YEAR 1910.  
 Deaths from stated Causes in Weeks and Months under One Year of Age.

CAUSES OF DEATH.				Under 1 week	1-2 Weeks	3-4 Weeks	Total under 1 Month	3-4 Months	10-11 Months	Total Deaths under One Year
ALL CAUSES	certified	..	..	1	1	3	5	1	1	7
„	uncertified	..	..	1			1			1
Premature Birth	..	..	..	1						
Congenital Defects	..	..	..							
Atrophy, Debility, Marasmus	..				1	2		1		
Rickets	..	..	..						1	
Other Causes	..	..	..	1		1				

Population estimated to middle of 1910	..	..	8830.	
Births in the year	}	legitimate	..	175.
		illegitimate	..	20.
Deaths in the year of	}	legitimate infants	..	5.
		illegitimate infants	..	3.
Deaths from all Causes at all Ages	..	..	119.	